

REMARKS

The above-referenced U.S. Patent Application is presently abandoned. However, in an effort to advance the prosecution of a related case, *i.e.* U.S. Patent Application No. 10/630,945, Applicants amend the above-referenced case to claim priority to copending U.S. application Serial No. 09/282,724 filed March 31, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,339,130. Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants have perfected priority by filing a grantable petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a) along with the requisite fee, and herein amending the specification of the above-referenced application to contain a specific reference to a copending application at the time of filing. A copy of that petition is included herewith.

Applicants note that only those parent applications that were incorporated by reference at the time this patent application was filed have been included with the benefit claim. Thus, the incorporated-by-reference statement in the benefit claim adds no new matter and is appropriate. See original page 1 of the specification, lines 9-14 which incorporate both U.S. application Serial No. 08/477,098 filed June 7, 1995 (now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 5,578,662), as well as U.S. Serial No. 08/278,898 filed July 22, 1994 by reference.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants request consideration of Applicants' claim to the benefit of an earlier filing date. Such early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PD 2', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

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